

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Places Select Commission – 12 April 2022

Report Title

CCTV

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an overview of the local position in relation to CCTV capabilities within Rotherham from existing assets, with a focus on upgrades utilising existing assets the Council already own.

Recommendations

1. That Improving Places Select Commission note and comment on the report.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Overview of CCTV Projects
- Appendix 2 Case Study of a CCTV result by Covert Cameras
- Appendix 3 Initial Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix 4 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Review of Re-Deployable CCTV

1. Background

- 1.1 Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), tackling serious and organised crime and protecting vulnerable people, are key objectives for the Council and partners through the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The use of CCTV is an increasingly important tool which contributes to the delivery of those objectives.
- 1.2 In July 2018 the Council adopted a new Overt CCTV Policy, an essential part of which was a review of CCTV capacity and capability across the teams that utilise CCTV. There are a number of areas where the Council makes use of CCTV which includes fixed systems in individual Council buildings, a fixed 'mainframe' system, which feeds into a Police monitored control room in Doncaster, re-deployable ASB cameras and re-deployable cameras used to tackle fly-tipping. Importantly, whilst the Council's CCTV capability was being reviewed, a formal authorisation process to deploy cameras was enhanced in order to ensure the Council was compliant with relevant legislation.
- 1.3 Acquisition and deployment of cameras has taken place each year for a number of years, including an allocation in 2018/19 of £60,000 of capital funding specifically to enhance CCTV capacity within Wards. This led to re-deployable CCTV units being purchased and allocated to each Ward, with a focus on being utilised where ASB concerns were raised. These units were first deployed in January 2019.
- 1.4 The review work undertaken led to further capital investment money being made available by the Council in the 2019/20 budget of £350k, with a view to modernising systems to ensure resilience, as well as enhance the Council's and partners capabilities to improve community safety and prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour.

2. Council Investment in CCTV

- 2.1 The subsequent review via the partnership CCTV Project Board Delivery Plan identified that the Council currently had 98 fixed camera units within the mainframe system; a further 372 CCTV units on secondary systems on Council buildings; and a further 97 re-deployable units to support enforcement functions.
- 2.2 The project aims, overseen by the Board, were to deliver the investment into the Council's CCTV system to achieve the following three objectives:
 - Review and upgrade, where possible, fixed CCTV units, ensuring as a minimum current coverage is maintained.
 - Upgrade, as appropriate and necessary, the hardware and software associated with the system.
 - Seek to link the re-deployable units to a 'live monitoring capability'.
- 2.3 The Board's objectives were framed against a set of fundamental principles, namely:

- To enhance Community Safety across the Borough by the Prevention and Detection of Crime
- To enhance the Environment through the Prevention and Detection of Environmental Offences
- To improve perceptions of safety through a strong visible deterrent
- To support the safe management of the highways network
- To protect Council property and assets

2.4 In addition to the initial allocation of £350k, the service identified a further £70k of investment from the Outbreak Control Funding in order to target testing sites and, following extensive market engagement, a procurement process was launched in January 2022, with specific requirements as stated in section 2.2. A supplier has now been appointed and significant work will be completed by July of this year. The work will deliver the following:

- All hardware and software to be replaced with up-to-date and leading technology. This will ensure the system remains fit for purpose and resilient.
- All of the existing 98 cameras will be upgraded, improving capacity for further upgrades alongside improving capability and image quality
- Local officers will be able to access CCTV remotely, not only improving prevention and detection of crime but also improving the Council's capacity to respond and manage major incidents. As well as improving efficiency.
- All of the existing overt re-deployable cameras will be linked to a live viewing capability, realising the same benefits as stated above.

2.5

The Council has allocated further capital funding for the 2022/23 financial year of £250k in order to further enhance the capacity of the system, by adding more CCTV cameras to the fixed system and improving transmission lines to allow for digital images. Alongside the additional capital, the Council has also granted further revenue funding for a lead officer to coordinate the management and use of what is now a significant Council asset.

3.

Additional CCTV Funding

3.1

At the same time as managing and delivering the Council's own capital investment, the service has continued to identify external funding opportunities to further enhance the CCTV capability. In April 2021 Safer Streets Funding 2 was made available by the Home Office, providing opportunity for the Council to bid for investment for measures aimed at preventing acquisitive crime in disproportionately affected areas. Initiatives could target vehicle theft, robbery or burglary, among other crimes, and could include interventions to improve home security, such as installing better locks and gating alleyways, and making streets better lit at night. The Council were successful in securing funding of £80,500 for the Wath and Swinton areas to provide:

- 26 re-deployable CCTV cameras plus 20 adaptors for use on old style concrete lamp posts.

- 'Operation Shield' Smart water to all properties within the highlighted areas.
 - Increase signage and media involvement within those communities.
 - Supporting active community groups.
- 3.2 The Council were again successful at the next round of the Home Office Safer Streets Funding with £110,000 secured in order to improve women's feelings of safety in parks or open spaces. This has been focussed locally in Clifton park through:
- £95,000 to be spent on enhanced lighting
 - £15,200 to purchase 15 cameras for deployment at 5 locations in the park
- 3.3 Further investment was also secured in November 2021 for improvements to be made to the Rosehill/Victoria Park CCTV system which led to 15 new CCTV units being purchased. It was a Ward priority to ensure that the Park was a well-used resource and is accessible to all ages and abilities. However, the Park was troubled with various reports of crime and anti-social behaviour. A successful bid was made to the Safer Rotherham Partnership for enhanced CCTV provision to ensure people, particularly women and young girls, felt safe to use the Park. An award of £24,500 was made allowing the purchase and deployment of:
- 29 fixed wireless static dome cameras with 24 hour colour images and pan, tilt and zoom capabilities.
 - 1 ANPR camera specifically in relation to vehicle use in the park and links to criminality.
- 3.4 A whole new system upgrade to the Wharnccliffe flats CCTV system was undertaken in December 2021, utilising housing monies. The area had problems with drug use and dealing, knife crime and fly-tipping. The existing CCTV system was outdated and not up to standard for the level of evidence needed and allowed for some blind spots and as a result, upgrades have been prioritised. This proved very timely given a firearms incident shortly after the cameras were deployed.
- 3.5 The CCTV system in place at Victoria Street, Masborough, was found to be inoperable. Safer Rotherham Partnership funding was secured for around £6,000 to provide a 5-camera head system that now covers a larger area of Masborough.
- 3.6 In total, the team have been able to secure in excess of 60 additional cameras through this work during the current financial year.

4. Fly Tipping

- 4.1 The Council's successful use of CCTV to tackle Fly Tipping is widely recognised with Councils including Barnsley, Doncaster, Manchester, Bradford and Wakefield, learning from Rotherham. Whilst capability to deploy camera units is limited by capacity, 14 of the deployable units used across the Borough have recently been modernised and upgraded to specifications that make for effective evidence gathering for prosecutions.

4.2 The projects and developments that have taken place this year outside of the Capital funding detailed in section 2.4, can be found at Appendix 1.

5. Key Issues

5.1 There is an increased reliance on CCTV as a tool that, as well as capturing images of offences and offenders, also deters crime, ASB and fly tipping. CCTV has proven to be very useful, successfully contributing to both Police and Council investigations. Indeed, CCTV images have been key to successful fly-tipping prosecutions, including two custodial sentences being handed down by the Court.

5.2 It is important to recognise however, that CCTV is not the complete solution to all problems, there are practical limitations, for example not being able to identify offenders and offences taking place in locations where cameras are not located or not within the field of vision of the camera. If an offender cannot be identified or faces are obscured, then the Council may not have the evidence required to take action. Similarly, there are only a finite number of cameras available and consequently only a limited number of incidents can be captured.

5.3 Most cameras are overt and consequently clearly visible. In many cases, the deployment of the units has a positive preventative effect and reduces the problems in an area. There is however a risk that, on occasion, an issue may be simply moved on to another area. However, behaviours are influenced by wider factors and certain types of behaviours do not always manifest elsewhere, for example on street alcohol consumption in an open space may not be likely to be displaced to a residential street.

5.4 Whilst positive, the increasing levels of CCTV assets also have resource implications in terms of officer time and expertise to manage the associated systems, together with ongoing maintenance and deployment costs. The Council has a mixture of contracts and agreements for servicing and repair however this is not consistent across the Council's assets and in some areas, such as re-deployable cameras, this means replacements cannot be provided whilst they are taken for repairs. Following upgrades to the system to modern standards, contractual arrangements for maintenance and repair will be reviewed across all CCTV assets and relevant departments.

5.5 Since 2018 the Council has transformed its CCTV capacity and capability to deter and detect crime, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, making a significant contribution to safety and crime reduction agendas. This is particularly important to ensure people are confident that open spaces and streets are safe.

5.6 The Council generates positive results, particularly such as in relation to environmental crime. Appendix 2 provides several case studies where the Council has utilised evidence as a result of CCTV installations in order to progress legal action. Demonstrating the wider positive impacts of the equipment.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

This report is for the purposes of Improving Places Select Commission and therefore members are asked to note and comment on the content.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 No consultation is necessary at the stage.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The update reflects the current position in relation to CCTV and the Upgrades of existing systems and assets which will remain ongoing through the year.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 The funding for the additional Capital and revenue budgets for CCTV has been subject to approval through the Council's budget setting which was approved at the Council Meeting of 2nd March 2022.

6.2 The Safer Streets Funding 2 and 3 have been subject to approval through the grant funding process.

6.3 The Clifton Park and Rosehill Park schemes have been subject to approval through formal Safer Rotherham Partnership applications.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 In order to comply with Principle 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (fair and lawful obtaining and processing), individuals will be made aware that a CCTV system is in use. A number of camera warning signs will be sited around the area, including one on the lamp post to which the camera is fixed. The signs will be clearly visible and legible.

7.2 In accordance with Principle 5 of the Data Protection Act 1998, images linked to offences will be kept only as long as necessary for the specified purpose. Data not retained for this purpose will be deleted within 30 days of capture.

7.3 Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 details the offence of fly-tipping, and the additional offences of 'knowingly causing' or 'knowingly permitting' fly-tipping.

7.4 Section 33(8) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 states that anyone who commits an offence is liable to an unlimited fine and/or a custodial sentence of up to twelve months.

7.5 Section 33(ZA) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for the issuing of a fixed penalty fine, which upon payment discharges the offence. In Rotherham the level of the fixed penalty fine is set to £400 with a reduced fee of £200 if the fine is paid within 10 days.

- 7.6 Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 establishes a general duty of care. Anyone who produces, imports, keeps, stores, transports, treats or disposes of waste must take all reasonable steps to ensure that waste is managed properly. It also applies to anyone who acts as a broker and has control of waste.
- 7.7 Section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, inserted by the Waste (Household Waste Duty of Care) (England and Wales) Regulations 2005, places specific duty of care obligations on householders. Householders must ensure that household waste is properly disposed of. Household waste is defined in section 75(5) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and includes waste from domestic properties, caravans and residential homes. The householder duty of care is provided by.
- 7.8 Where offences are committed relating to the general and householder duty of care, Section 34(6) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, those responsible are liable upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum; and on conviction on indictment, to an unlimited fine.

7.9 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 The revenue funding allocated will result in a new post, which will be subject to existing policy and procedure for recruitment.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 CCTV will act as a deterrent and will contribute to giving vulnerable adults and children reassurance.
- 9.2 This project will help people feel safer on our streets as well as tackling local acquisitive crimes like car theft and burglary and crimes which take place in public places such as sexual harassment and violent attacks, the cameras will help to increase the safety of public spaces and will help change attitudes and behaviours in local communities and try to stop the offences happening in the first place.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A screening assessment is attached at Appendix 1
- 10.2 A full impact assessment is not required at this stage as the report is a position statement of the work being currently undertaken by the Council

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no direct implications for climate change that are measurable in relation to fly tipped material. However, release of carbon into the environment from fly tipped material will add to the overall emissions where otherwise the carbon might be captured through correct disposal or recycling.

- 11.2 There is significant risk from fly tipping that are linked to bio diversity and impacts on the denaturing of the Borough. This is particularly so with contamination of environments and habitats from a range of toxic chemicals impacting directly on the health of fauna and flora. Additionally, the trapping of small vertebrates and invertebrates in the waste impacts directly on populations along with reducing food available to predators.
- 11.3 A Carbon Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 2

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 The new systems in place together with the planned improvements to the mainframe system will improved access for all users with remote access and data download available together with live views from one of the iPads that the Council has purchased. Local Policing Teams and Officers from Community Protection and Environmental Health now have a 4g iPads that can connect direct to the CCTV systems enabling Officers to get an up-to-date view on an area.
- 12.2 iPads are also available to the Councils 'Out of Hours Service' enabling Officers to dial in to camera immediately should there be a call in relation to a disturbance particularly in the Eastwood area.
- 12.3 24/7 digital recording in the Council Housing areas will also gather evidence and aid officers in housing when taking enforcement actions against any council tenancies.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Failure to effectively deliver key responsibilities and obligations will negatively impact on the Council's image whilst failing to deliver national and local priorities.
- 13.2 Risk of this system being outdated within a few years' time due to technical advancements will require future funding streams to be sought

Accountable Officer(s)

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Approvals obtained on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

(S.151 Officer)		
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		Click here to enter a date.

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